

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action mailed November 29, 2001, in which Claims 2-10 and 22-30 were rejected. Claims 2-4 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Akram et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,048,656 ("*Akram*"). Claims 5-10 and 25-30 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Akram*.

The present application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/188,599, filed November 9, 1998, which is in turn a divisional of Application Serial No. 08/610,610, filed March 7, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,834,339. Thus, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, the present application has an effective filing date of March 7, 1996. *Akram* was filed May 11, 1999 and issued April 11, 2000. Thus, under 35 U.S.C. § 102, *Akram* is not prior art against the present application. Thus, Claims 2-10 and 22-30 are unanticipated by *Akram* and otherwise allowable.

Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the pending claims.

The Official Action indicated that Form PTO-948 was attached. However, we did not receive the notice of Draftsperson's Review. Please forward us a copy of this form with the next communication.

If this response raises any issues, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number below. If any fee is due in connection with this response, Examiner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: February 28, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By

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